

Conference of States Parties to the UN Convention against Corruption
11 – 15 December 2023

Canada National Statement

(4 minutes to deliver)

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Ministers, distinguished leaders,

Let me begin by echoing thanks to the Government of the United States for hosting the 10th Conference of States parties of the UN Convention against Corruption.

As UNCAC celebrates its 20th anniversary, it remains the only near universal, legally binding, anti-corruption instrument. Its comprehensive scope includes prevention and criminalization of corruption, as well as crucial international cooperation.

At this milestone, Canada reiterates its strong commitment to combatting corruption. We are committed to working with other States Parties to achieve outcomes that will help to bolster public and private sector integrity through our respective legislative and regulatory regimes. Canada continues to use its voice to champion gender responsive approaches, and we underscore the important contributions of civil society, non-governmental organizations, the private sector, academia, media and journalists, independent experts and other relevant stakeholders to our collective efforts against preventing and countering corruption.

Over the last 20 years, we have also had to adapt our tool-kit.

With the rapid evolution of digital technology, we must carefully consider the role of information and communications technologies and its impact on our efforts to combat corruption.

Mr. President, since we last met in December 2021, I can report that Canada has undertaken several important initiatives in support of the Convention.

- In June 2022, Canada amended its domestic sanctions regime. In so doing, Canada can now **restrain, freeze, and, where appropriate, seize, confiscate or forfeit the assets of sanctioned persons**. If forfeited, the proceeds that are generated will be able to be used for the reconstruction of Ukraine and compensation to victims of Russia's war of aggression.
- To better respond to financial crimes including money laundering, Canada has created a **public and searchable beneficial ownership registry** and is establishing a **Financial Crimes Agency**. We also continue to engage actively in the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), particularly in our **Vice-Presidency role until 2025**, and support the crucial role of "FATF" as the global standard-setter in the fight against money laundering.
- 2023 was also the year of **Canada's peer reviews** under the UNCAC, the OAS Inter-American Convention against Corruption and the OECD Anti-Bribery Convention. We

value these peer review processes to help us to respond more effectively, and highlight good practices.

- Canada has partnered with the UNODC and Transparency International on initiatives to strengthen **international and regional anti-corruption architecture**, including the Mechanism for the Review of Implementation of the UNCAC.
- Through partnerships, we work with African countries to improve the resilience of public institutions and ensure that **educational and health services** are delivered to communities in vulnerable situations, including women and girls.

Dear colleagues, as we gather this week in Atlanta, we have an opportunity to do more to build on the solid foundation of the Convention, and to integrate lessons learned in the 20 years since its adoption.

Together with partners and stakeholders, let us seize the moment!

Thank you.

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